

CLAIMS

1. A method for distributing personalized editions of media programs, the method comprising:

accessing a media program at an editing device;

receiving a designation of at least one excerpt of the media program for inclusion in a personalized edition of the media program;

generating at least one bookmark defining each designated excerpt of the media program; and

transmitting the at least one bookmark to a playback device having access to the media program, wherein the at least one bookmark is usable by the playback device to present the personalized edition of the media program including only the at least one designated excerpt.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

accessing the media program at the playback device from a source other than the editing device;

receiving the at least one bookmark at the playback device; and

presenting the personalized edition of the media program on the playback device including only the at least one designated excerpt.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein presenting comprises:

skipping at least one non-designated excerpt.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein skipping comprises:

starting presentation of the media program at a point defined by a next bookmark.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises:

transmitting the at least one bookmark from the editing device to the playback device via a network.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the network is selected from the group

consisting of a cable television network, a direct broadcast satellite network, and the Internet.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises:

transmitting the at least one bookmark from the editing device to the playback device using a wireless technique.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises:

physically transporting the at least one bookmark from the editing device to the playback device on a removable storage medium.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the storage medium is selected from a

group consisting of a magnetic disk, an optical disc, and a non-volatile flash memory card.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one bookmark is

encapsulated within a program interface object (PIO).

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one excerpt comprises a

plurality of excerpts, and wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a designation of a presentation order for the plurality of excerpts;

and

transmitting an indicator of the sequential order to the playback device,
wherein the indicator is useable by the playback device to present the plurality of
excerpts in the designated presentation order.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a
time reference.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a
non-time positional reference.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark marks a
beginning point of an excerpt within the media program.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark marks an end
point of an excerpt within the media program.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark marks both a
beginning point and an end point of an excerpt within the media program.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a
directive to skip to a particular point within the media program.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein accessing comprises downloading the
media program from a server.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein accessing comprises digitally recording
the media program from a broadcast medium.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein accessing comprises accessing a
removable storage medium including the media program.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the removable storage medium comprises a digital versatile disk (DVD).

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one excerpt comprises a segment of interest within the media program.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the playback device comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein the editing device comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.

25. A system for creating and distributing personalized editions of media programs, the system comprising:

a media interface component within an editing device that accesses a media program;

an excerpt designation component that receives a designation of at least one excerpt of the media program for inclusion in a personalized edition of the media program;

a bookmark generation component that generates at least one bookmark defining each designated excerpt of the media program; and

a bookmark transmission component that transmits the at least one bookmark to a playback device having access to the media program, wherein the at least one bookmark is usable by the playback device to present the personalized edition of the media program including only the at least one designated excerpt.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the playback device comprises:

a media interface component that accesses the media program from a source other than the editing device;

a bookmark reception component that receives the at least one bookmark;
and

a playback control component that presents the personalized edition of the media program on the playback device including only the at least one designated excerpt.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the playback control component skips at least one non-designated excerpt.

28. The system of claim 26, wherein the playback control component starts presentation of the media program at a point defined by a next bookmark.

29. The system of claim 25, wherein the bookmark transmission component transmits the at least one bookmark from the editing device to the playback device via a network.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the network is selected from the group consisting of a cable television network, a direct broadcast satellite network, and the Internet.

31. The system of claim 25, wherein the bookmark transmission component transmits the at least one bookmark from the editing device to the playback device using a wireless technique.

32. The system of claim 25, wherein the bookmark transmission component stores the at least one bookmark on a removable storage medium to be physically transported from the editing device to the playback device.

33. The system of claim 33, wherein the storage device is selected from a group consisting of a magnetic disk, an optical disc, and a non-volatile flash memory card.

34. The system of claim 25, wherein the at least one bookmark is encapsulated within a program interface object (PIO).

35. The system of claim 25, wherein the at least one excerpt comprises a plurality of excerpts, wherein the system further comprises:

an order designation component that receives a designation of a presentation order for the plurality of excerpts; and

wherein the bookmark transmission component transmits an indicator of the sequential order to the playback device, wherein the indicator is useable by the playback device to present the plurality of excerpts in the designated presentation order.

36. The system of claim 25, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a time reference.

37. The system of claim 25, wherein each bookmark comprises at least one non-time positional reference.

38. The system of claim 25, wherein at least one bookmark marks a beginning point of an excerpt within the media program.

39. The system of claim 25, wherein at least one bookmark marks an end point of an excerpt within the media program.

40. The system of claim 25, wherein at least one bookmark marks both a beginning point and an end point of an excerpt.

41. The system of claim 25, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a directive to skip to a particular point within the media program.

42. The system of claim 25, wherein the media interface component downloads the media program from a server.

43. The system of claim 25, wherein the media interface component digitally records a broadcast media program.

44. The system of claim 25, wherein the media interface component accesses a removable storage medium including the media program.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein the removable storage medium comprises a digital versatile disk (DVD).

46. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one excerpt comprises a segment of interest within the media program.

47. The system of claim 25, wherein the playback device comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.

48. A system for distributing personalized editions of media programs, the system comprising.

means for accessing a media program at an editing device;

means for receiving a designation of at least one excerpt of the media program for inclusion in a personalized edition of the media program;

means for generating at least one bookmark defining each designated excerpt of the media program; and

means for transmitting the at least one bookmark to a playback device having access to the media program, wherein the at least one bookmark is usable by the playback device to present the personalized edition of the media program including the at least one designated excerpt.